

...at least be zoning will assure reliability but they are stubborn. They cut off supply and this has affected advise investors before issuing them."

# KCCA in door-to-door campaign on family planning

By Juliet Waiswa

Namuganzi Esther, a 45-year-old mother of seven, has been yearning for family planning methods from the time she started giving birth.

A resident of Bwaise Kimombasa, a city slum, Namuganzi was among the 1,000 women who turned up to get family planning services at a camp organised by The Challenge Initiative (TCI) in partnership with Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA)

KCCA will provide health workers, who will move door-to-door sensitising the urban poor women together with their partners on the number of children they should have and on how to space children.

With the aim of providing urban reproductive solutions, KCCA will offer the services free of charge in order to curb the unmet family planning needs of the urban poor.

The Kawempe division medical officer, Dr Isaiah Chebrot, said with the growing population in urban slums, there was need to control the

rate at which women give birth.

"As KCCA, we want to reach out to the urban women who may otherwise shy away from the services, or who are not aware that the services are available," Chebrot said during the launch of the programme at Komamboga Health Centre III, a KCCA health facility in Kawempe division.

He said KCCA had injected sh250m in the one-year programme. It will offer the medicines and services at its health facility of Komamboga at no cost.

Chebrot said out of the 100 slum dwellers who wish to acquire the services at the health facility, 30% of these had not been coming to the facility despite the need for the services.

"There are many pregnant teenagers, especially in the slums, as a result of not getting family planning services. The unmet need is at 30%. We want to reach out to every woman living in the slums," Chebrot added.

The deputy director of TCI, Kojo Lokko, said they operate

**The Challenge Initiative:** Is an enterprise that offers a new approach to financing, scaling up and sustaining family planning programmes designed to address the rapid urbanisation taking place.

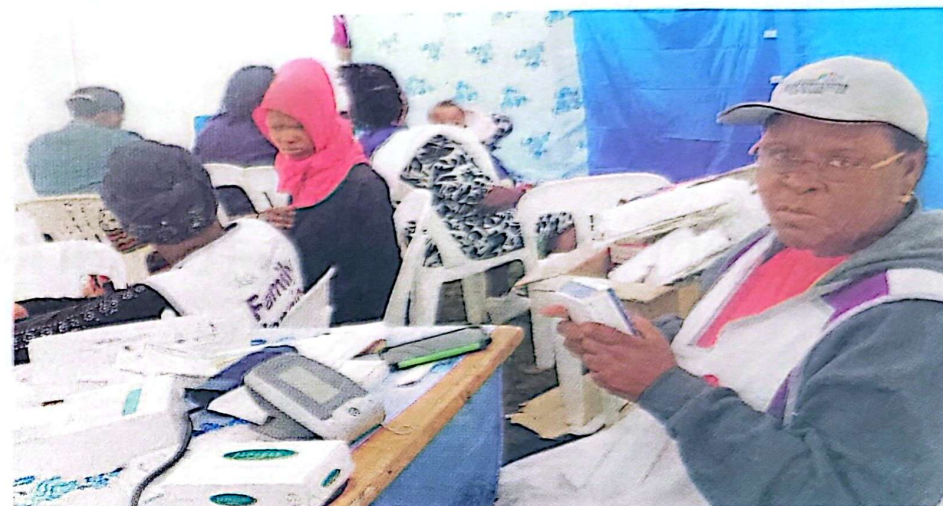
## WHAT IS TCI?

in 10 countries which include Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

In Uganda, TCI operates in the districts of Busia and Buikwe, where they intend to change lives of mothers by helping them give birth to the number of children they can take care of.

Lokko said women still face challenges of accessing the right information and some cannot afford the services.

"There is need to have family planning services accessible to the women at the right time,"



Enid Tumwebaze, a health worker, waiting to attend to mothers at a health camp organised in Kawempe division by KCCA and TCI. Photo by Juliet Waiswa

Lokko said.

Enid Tumwebaze, a health worker, said in order to control the number of children families should have, there was need to involve men in the programme at all levels.

### Mothers speak out

"I have nine children and they are not well-spaced, some have dropped out of school because I did not control the rate at which I was giving birth," Susan Auma, a market vendor

in Kawempe Kazo, said.

"At times, we shun family planning because we do not get the right information about the services," Grace Babiryie, a resident of Kimombosa," she said.